

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information processing method in an information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external information processing apparatus via a network has: a managing step of managing fixed identification information fixedly added to the external information processing apparatus and variable identification information variably added to the external information processing apparatus; an obtaining step of obtaining the fixed identification information and the variable identification information via the network from the external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with; a discriminating step of discriminating whether the fixed identification information obtained in the obtaining step coincides with the fixed identification information managed in the managing step or not and whether the variable identification information obtained in the obtaining step coincides with the variable identification information managed in the managing step or not; and a changing step of changing a setting of a control program for controlling the external information processing apparatus having the fixed identification information on the basis of the variable identification information obtained in the obtaining step if it is determined in the discriminating step

that although the fixed identification information obtained in the obtaining step coincides with the fixed identification information managed in the managing step, the variable identification

5 information obtained in the obtaining step does not coincide with the variable identification information managed in the managing step. An apparatus and a system to which such a method is applied are disclosed.